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M/EB 432/64
2 September 1964
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Manufacturing Services Division, ORR

ATTENTION: [redacted] Communications Branch

THROUGH: Chief, Requirements Branch, Reconnaissance Group, CGS

FROM: Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)

SUBJECT: Reported Back-to-Back Troposcatter Antenna at Kursk, USSR

REFERENCES:

- (a) Requirement C-RR-4-81,490
- (b) CIA/PID Project C 1042-64
- (c) NPIC Cable 2337 dated 26 May 1964
- (d) U. S. Army Intelligence Report ID2126943 dated 6 November 1959 with enclosed British . Air Attache Report AA 608/59 dated 24 October 1959
- (e) CIA Files FIRM No. 9010559: Kursk, dated 31 May 1961
- (f) U.S. Air Force Message on Odintsovo, USSR dated 9 May 1963 (AF IN:10460)
- (g) U.S. Intelligence Report on Kursk IRL2505 with attached photos P-40895 through P-40898
- (h) CIA photo on Kursk No. 526539 (B-12)
- (i) CIA photo on Odintsovo No. 943981 dated 25 July 1963

1. This memorandum is in response to your requirement dated 10 June 1964 requesting a comparison of the two back-to-back antennas at Kursk-East Airfield seen [redacted] with the antenna at Kursk-East Airfield seen on Aerial photography [redacted] and reported as a troposcatter antenna in NPIC Cable 2337. In addition, a general comparison was made with the back-to-back antenna seen at Odintsovo, USSR on attache photography [redacted]

2. The two back-to-back antennas reported and photographed [redacted] Kursk-East Airfield in 1959 appear to be identical. They are not positioned in the same location as the antenna seen for the first time on KEYHOLE photography [redacted] [redacted] locates the back-to-back antennas at the southwest corner of the airfield, and states that they were photographed facing north from the main Kursk-Voronezh road. Weather conditions were poor at the time of this sighting.

Aerial photography dated April 1964 [redacted] reveals a probable radar site in the southwest corner of Kursk-East Airfield at 51-44N 36-17E

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(see Map Site 1). This is the general location of the antennas seen in 1959. [redacted] also reveals the newly identified antenna site at 51-46N 36-21E (see Map Site 2 and photo enclosure) approximately 3.5 nautical miles north-northeast of Site 1 and approximately three nautical miles north-northeast of the airfield. Although Site 1 appears to be operational, the back-to-back antennas and other equipment seen on the 1959 attache photography cannot be identified on the April 1964 photography.

The two back-to-back antennas photographed in the area of Site 1 in 1959 are reported to each consist of two truncated elliptical mesh reflectors placed back-to-back. What appears to be the larger of the two reflectors is reported to be approximately 45 [redacted] feet. These antennas appear to be probably the same type as the back-to-back antenna photography at Odintsovo in July 1963 and reported to be between 45 and 50 feet in length.

The newly identified antenna at Kursk-East Airfield (Site 2) is located in a secured area which contains eight buildings of assorted sizes, approximately 15 vans or trucks, three vehicle revetments, and the antenna mounted on a building or van in the center of a concrete pad approximately 140 by 140 feet.

The earliest photo coverage of Site 2 is [redacted], and although the quality of the photography precludes the identification of the antenna newly identified on [redacted], there appears to be no apparent change in the site since that time.

Aerial photography of [redacted] is the only interpretable coverage of the antenna at Site 2 and is not in stereo. Based on this coverage alone, no reliable interpretation can be made as to the antenna configuration or number of reflectors. Without this information, no comparison can be made between the antennas seen in 1959 at Site 1 with the newly identified antenna at Site 2. It cannot be determined whether the antenna reported in NPIC Cable 2337 is or is not a troposcatter antenna.

4. This project is considered to be complete.

Enclosures:

- 1 - Photo of antenna, Kursk-East Airfield Site 2, M 4007/Pass D58 (CIA/PID/MEB-P-737/64)
- 2 - Annotated map: USATC Series 200, O234-2HL, 2nd Ed., Nov 63

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Kursk-East
Airfield Site 2
(51-46N 36-21E)

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